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they are only judged as men who failed at their duties and did not have the strength to check Indonesia's voracity.

(12) May our leaders take a lesson from the ambulance driver. May they not lose sight of what is crucial, hidden under a cover of incidental detail. All the fuss surrounding the government's report, which Expresso, as a newspaper has the obligation to publish, can, if we are not clear-headed and discerning, lead us to forget about the patient and rail in vain against those who did not cure his wounds before.●

PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES ON STATUS OF EAST TIMOR

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 1982

● Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the seventh anniversary of Indonesia's brutal full scale invasion of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

Seven years ago, scarcely a handful of Americans outside of Government knew of the existence of East Timor, but presently American public awareness of the tragedy in this predominantly Roman Catholic island territory is growing. This is a most encouraging development.

As awareness of the Timor tragedy increases, so does the recognition that a political settlement stressing the right of the East Timorese to determine their own future is necessary. As I have stated on previous occasions, and as more of my colleagues have come to believe, there should be official American backing for a process that can lead to authentic self-determination for East Timor. This is one of the points of my resolution on East Timor, House Concurrent Resolution 321, which has been cosponsored by 46 other Representatives.

It is clear that Portugal, which ruled East Timor for 400 years until 1975, and which continues to be recognized under international law as the legal sovereign of East Timor, has a key role to play in the effort to end Indonesian occupation of the territory.

Today, the Prime Minister of Portugal, Dr. Francisco Pinto Balsemao, arrives in Washington for talks with Reagan administration officials and with the President himself. I have been informed that the Portuguese leader plans to discuss the East Timor tragedy with President Reagan.

Before he became Prime Minister in 1981, Dr. Balsemao had a distinguished career as editor of the weekly publication, Expresso. On the occasion of his visit here I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention a translation of an editorial which appeared in Expresso in October, 1981.

This commentary calls for practical, nonpartisan action by Portugal's major political figures to meet Lisbon's historic responsibility to the people of East Timor. It is a moving appeal for cooperation that should be seriously considered by all those concerned about this tragedy.

It is my hope that the administration will take advantage of Dr. Balsemao's visit to pursue new initiatives on the status of East Timor. If Portugal is interested in opening the window on East Timor, we should be prepared for some fresh air on the issues involved.

For the benefit of my colleagues, the Expresso editorial follows:

[Editorial from the Expresso, October 1981]

EAST TIMOR AND THE HOSPITAL AMBULANCE DRIVER

Some days ago, on RTP, in a report on the hold-up of the Bank of the village of Santo Adriao, a statement was made by an ambulance driver from St. Joseph's Hospital who had taken one of the wounded in for treatment. The wounded man had been deposited by his partners at the door of the hospital who had then left in a flash in order not to get caught. The ambulance driver said: "When somebody wounded is brought in, we're not about to notice who brought him. What we really want to do is get him medical attention as quickly as possible. Saving his life is above everything else".

A sensible philosophy, this ambulance driver's, and one that puts the theory and practice of many political and journalistic strategists to shame. This puts us in mind of the case of Timor and the fuss about the government's report. It's time we looked to the patient who is dying and to those who, ultimately, may have accelerated his demise or dealt him more blows.

(1) Indonesia invaded Timor, whose population it is destroying only because they committed the crime of wanting to be a people.

(2) Portugal has historical responsibilities toward Timor as, for example, did England toward Rhodesia. Great Britain assumed its responsibilities, let that be said for Margaret Thatcher. She met the problem head-on and an honorable solution was found.

(3) To attempt to cast the blame on X, Y or Z, who intervened in that confused process, is all very well and good as an outlet for imperial-style frustrations, but it's not realistic.

(4) The crucial point, and what is hanging in the balance at this very moment, is the existence of a people who were invaded by another stronger than they.

(5) The invader's name is Indonesia: Indonesia the executioner who is committing violence daily against the Maubere people.

(6) The report on Timor focuses on individuals who may have favored an invasion, but they were not decisive. Portugal, once Indonesia made up its mind, did not possess the physical means to avoid it.

(7) Portugal however, has the obligation that History has conferred upon it, and also the right to seek a solution. Not a military solution. It would be ridiculous to advocate that.

But it can take the lead in promoting an international movement that would push Indonesia to accept, at least, a referendum on Timor, a referendum that should be controlled by the United Nations.

(8) And who is the Portugal to whom this historical imperative falls?

That Portugal is Ramalho Eanes, Francisco Pinto Balsemao, as Prime Minister and President of the Social Democratic Party, Mario Soares, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party, Freitas do Amaral of the Christrian Democratic Party, Alvaro Cunhal of the Communist Party, Ribeiro Teles of the PPM, the Council of the Revolution and others more directly involved in shaping the destiny of this people, be it by virtue of the offices they hold at the highest executive level or by virtue of the parties or coalitions that they head. It is the parties who, more than any other group, organize Portugal's political strength.

Let's leave aside, for now, other Portuguese who were involved. Those people will be the first to be judged by History if the Maubere people end up sacrificed on the altar of geopolitical interests or simply for the sake of the immediate interests of the powers or superpowers.

(9) Mario Soares, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party and Vice President of the Socialist International: what is and was he doing to call the world's attention to the dying man?

Alvaro Cunhal, with his many and influential friends in the "Communist International": what is and was he doing?

Freitas do Amaral, together with his friends in the European Christian Democratic Union, of which he is President, and inside his own party: what is he doing? And Pinto Balsemao as Prime Minister and President of the Social Democratic Party? And Ramalho Eanes: what influence has he made use of to try to save East Timor?

(10) Could it be that Indonesia's having big business dealings with the East and West is motive enough to try to silence the cries of a people? They are crying out not only for treatment of the wounded or for "kinder" methods of torture for those Timorese who want to go on being Maubere. They are crying out to be a people, and for Indonesia to leave the territory that doesn't belong to it.

(11) The Portuguese authorities have an obligation to try to reach a national consensus on Timor and to seek an international consensus for it.

Is this what they have been doing?

Being President of a country that has friends and allies, being Prime Minister or Secretary-General of the Communist Party, Socialist Party, Social Democratic Party of Christian Democratic Party and President or Vice President of International organizations means a lot and carries a lot of weight. It is important that everyone remember: History will judge them—judge them more severely than they are now judged. Now